Auburn Theol Sem N.Y. Feb 24th 1841.

To the Society of Inquiry
Theol Sem- Princeton N.J.

Dear Brethren.

Yours of the 20th ult- was rec'd. in due season; & we now engage in the pleasant task of replying. We most sincerely reciprocate those expressions of fraternal regard with whh your letter abounds. That our beloved Societies should have been so long ignorant of each others condition, so long without a word of counsel & encouragement, so long strangers to each other, is to us, Dear Brethren, no less than to you, a matter of sincere regret. But we cannot think we are entirely in the fault. Our records do not contain any notice of any letter rec'd. from you in 1831. They shows that we sent you one in Dec- 1830, to whh, (if our records are correct,) we rec'd. no reply. Either your letter never reached us, or our records are defective. But it is strange that we should have permitted ten years to elapse without knowing why we were strangers. We should not have permitted ourselves to be so shackeled by forms & ceremonies, that not a word of intelligence could pass between us, because our communication had not been answered. Forgive us this wrong. By this long interruption of our correspondence, we have deprived ourselves of many precious privileges. We have not felt that lively interest in each others welfare, and in the prosperity of our respective Societies, whh a frequent & friendly interchange of views concerning the great object before us, is calculated to inspire

We have omitted the best means furnished us by our Divine Master, for cementing our hearts, & uniting our prayers & efforts for the edification of each other, & for strengthening the body of Christ. For what is more cheering, than the invigorating influence of fraternal fellowship? What is better adapted to bestir us in our Masters cause? What is better calculated to put to silence the prating Skeptic? What can give us stronger evidence of our adoption, than to love the brethren with pure hearts fervently; & do as those of former times did, whose example the Prophet Malachi records with approbation? The work in wh we are engaged is the same, our joys, our hopes, our aims are one, & our hearts should sympathize with each other in temptations or distress; or rejoice in each others prosperity. And this, Brethren beloved in the Lord, will we do. We shall rejoice when you rejoice, & weep when you weep. We are very happy to learn that the missionary spirit is increasing among you. That was the Spirit of Christ. That animated the bosoms, & fired the hearts of his Apostles. They, like him, went about doing good. They braved danger & death when duty called for the sacrifice. Their benevolence was not bounded by national distinctions, or a contracted view of the wants of their own countrymen. They embraced in their plans & purposes, the world. The primative church was one great missionary Society. When persecuted and scattered abroad, they preached Jesus & the resurrection. Their object was to make the entire race acquainted with the only Salvation wh saves from sin, & fits for heaven. Such should be the feeling of every servant of the Lord now. Especially should candidates for the ministry possess a glowing zeal in the cause of missions. They must go, & tell the heathen of salvation thro a crucified Saviour, or the work will not be done.

generation after generation will follow each other in rapid succession to death & hell, unless the ambassadors of Jesus make known to them the conditions of peace. On us, Dear Brethren, rests a vast amount of this responsibility. And with the Bible in our hands, the love of God in our hearts, & the perishing millions of heathen before our eyes, let us decide whose privilege it is to carry them the bread of life. In our Sem- a few (perhaps 6. or 8.) have determined to devote their life to the foreign service. Others are giving the subject a prayerful consideration. But we must say, however painful the admission that the subject does not elicit that interest whh we could wish, & whh its intrinsic importance demands. Too many of us are afraid of the toils & self-denials incident to a missionary life. We make ourselves believe that the wants of our own country are so great, & its calls so imperious, that we must stay & labor here. Still we hope & pray that none of us may refuse to go where our Master directs. If he has a place for us on foreign shores, we would cheerfully follow his direction, & if it be his will, make our grave in a land of strangers. The meetings of our Society are held on the first Monday in each month. They are well attended, & excite much interest. Our Essays & Reports are mostly on missionary subjects. A committee of 8. or 10. conducts the Societys correspondence. We correspond with several missionaries, many of whom once trod these halls of sacred science, & who call for us to come over & help them. —

We learn from some of our brethren who have recently left us to labor in this part of the vineyard, that the Lord is blessing their labors, & the still small voice of the Spirit is calling men from their long sleep in sin, & directing them to the Saviour. But such cheering intelligence is rare. There rests upon the people of this region, a spirit of slumber whh nothing short of Almighty power can break.

As we cast our eye over this mass of moral death, this valley of bones which are "very dry," we inquire with unutterable emotions, "Can these dry bones live"? Our hope is in God. If his Spirit breathe upon the slain, "bone shall come to his bone," & an exceeding great army rise up to praise the Lord.

With many prayers for your Spiritual health, & the prosperity of your Society, & with the hope that our correspondence may be uninterrupted, & mutually beneficial, we remain Your brethren in the Lord.

In behalf of the Society of Inquiry.

Chas. C. Carr.